

October 2013



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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Updates

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Rockingham-Strafford County FSA Office

629 Calef Highway
Epping, NH 03042

Phone: 603-679-4656 x 2
Fax: 603-679-4658
Monday-Friday
8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Executive Director:
Carol Sargent
carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov

County Committee:
Richard Babcock, Chair
Judith Merrill, Vice-Chair
Mary Current, Member
Wayne Elwood, Member
Glenn Pierce, Member

Next COC Meeting:
Dec. 9, 2013 at 12:30 PM

County Executive Director Comments

Thank you to all the farmers in Rockingham and Strafford counties for their patience while the office was closed during the government shutdown.

Since returning to work on October 17th we have been starting the process of an orderly start-up of 2014 farm and loan activities and continuing those activities that were halted by the shutdown. We are committed to deliver the service you expect and deserve as quickly as possible.

Acreage Reports Due

Acreage reports are required for many of our Farm Service Agency programs. Filing an accurate acreage report for all crops and land uses, including failed acreage and prevented planting acreage, can prevent the loss of benefits for a variety of programs.

The deadline for reporting 2014 perennial forage, fall forage seedings and fall-seeded small grains is November 15, 2013. This is a change in deadline that began with the 2013 crop year. Please contact the office as soon as possible to report crop acreage.

Nov. 15, 2013 - Perennial Forage, Fall Forage Seeding, and Fall-Seeded Small Grains

Jan. 2, 2014 - Honey

Jan. 15, 2014 - Apples, Peaches, Nectarines

Acting Farm Loan Manager:

Brian Kuper

Phone: 603-223-6003

brian.kuper@nh.usda.gov

Feb 15, 2014 - Maple Sap

May 31, 2014 - Ornamental Nursery

July 15, 2014 - Corn, Fresh Market Sweet Corn, Spring Forage Seeding,
and All Other Crops**Farm Loan Officers:**

Rebecca Davis

Lorna Wakefield

William Wilson

Please contact the office prior to coming in so that someone will be available to assist you.

Non-insured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP)

The noninsured crop disaster assistance program (NAP) is a federally funded program that helps producers reduce their risk when growing food, fiber, and specialty crops and crops for livestock feed when a natural disaster causes losses or prevented planting of an eligible crop. Application for coverage must be filed by the applicable crop's application closing date.

Production records for all crops must be reported to FSA no later than the acreage reporting date for the crop for the following year. NAP Losses must be reported within 15 days of the date the loss became apparent.

The service fee is \$250 per crop per county with a maximum of \$750 per producer per county. The fee for multi-county producers cannot exceed \$1875. Limited resource producers may request a waiver of the fee. Eligibility for NAP coverage is based on a proven history of crop production or an expected yield for the county.

A loss greater than 50% of the actual production history is covered. Payments are made at 55% of the average market price as set by the NH State FSA Committee.

The application closing dates are:

- **November 20 - Perennial Crops (including blueberries, strawberries, caneberries, and more)**
- December 1 - Maple Sap and Honey
- March 15 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops
- September 1 - Fall Seeded Garlic, Ornamental Nursery, Christmas Trees, Floriculture
- September 30 - All Forage Crops

County Committee Elections

Watch your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting in early November. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters on Nov. 4, 2013. If for some reason you don't receive a ballot, feel free to contact the county FSA office.

Rockingham-Strafford County FSA is holding 2013 elections for Local Administrative Areas (LAA) 1 and 4. LAA 1 includes the towns of New Durham, Middleton, Milton, Farmington and Rochester and LAA 4 includes the towns of Candia, Raymond, Epping, Auburn, Chester, Fremont, Londonderry, Derry, Sandown, Danville, Kingston, and Windham,

The election of agricultural producers to the FSA county committees is important to all farmers and ranchers. It is crucial that every eligible producer participate in these elections because FSA county committees are a link between the agricultural community and the USDA.

Completed and signed ballots must be returned (or postmarked) by Dec. 2, 2013.

Guaranteed Loan Limit Increases

The Farm Service Agency has announced that the loan limit for the Guaranteed Loan Program will increase to \$1,355,000 on Oct. 1, 2013. The limit is adjusted annually based on data compiled by the National Agricultural Statistics Service.

The lending limit increases every year according to an inflation index. The maximum combined guaranteed and direct farm loan indebtedness will also increase to \$1,655,000.

As a reminder, the one-time loan origination fee charged on FSA guaranteed Farm Ownership and Operating loans is 1.5 percent of the guaranteed portion of the loan.

Producers should contact their local FSA County Offices with questions about farm loans.

October Interest Rates

Farm Operating Loans, Direct 1.875%
including Microloans
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct 4.125%
Farm Ownership Loans, Direct, Joint Financing 5.00%
Farm Ownership, Down Payment 1.50%
Emergency Loans 2.875%
Farm Storage Facility Loans, 7 year 2.25%

Dates to Remember

Nov. 4 - Ballots mailed to eligible voters
Nov. 11 - Veterans Day: office closed
Nov. 15 - 2014 Acreage Reports due for perennial forage, fall forage seeding, fall seeded small grains
Nov. 20 - NAP application deadline for all perennial crops
Nov. 28 - Thanksgiving Holiday: office closed
Dec. 1 - NAP application deadline for maple sap and honey
Dec. 2 - Ballots due in county office
Dec. 9 - County Committee meeting and Election

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